



## **Clover Learning Community**

### **Smoking and Vaping Policy**

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#### **Introduction**

At Clover Learning Community all members of our learning community are valued, and the provision regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. Clover Learning Community recognises that its staff acts as role models for students in all aspects of their learning day, including health promotion. The behaviour of students also influences others in our learning provision.

Clover Learning Community recognises the dangers of smoking, passive smoking and vaping as well as the difficulties faced by long-term smokers.

#### **Policy Aims**

This policy aims to:

- Protect the staff, students and visitors
- Acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke; and
- Supports those people who would like to stop smoking
- Applies to everyone that comes on the site of Clover Learning Community
- Complies with the enforcement of the Smokefree Law of July 2007 (Health Act 2006).

#### **Rationale**

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society.
- Passive smoking (breathing other people's tobacco smoke) is also potentially fatal. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses in both smokers and non-smokers (children and young people are particularly vulnerable to the effects of second-hand smoke).
- Everyone has the right to breathe clean air.
- E- cigarette use, known as vaping, is not covered by smokefree legislation. E-cigarettes do not burn tobacco and do not create smoke. However, debate continues around their absolute level of safety to people – particularly children and young people. The main concerns surrounding e-cigarettes focus on their uptake by young people, their potential to renormalise smoking, safety for users and bystanders, and their effectiveness as quitting aids. Further concerns regarding e-cigarette use in public places include the reversal of advances in clean air achieved by banning smoking in public places, and a normalisation of nicotine addiction. Further to this, people with asthma and other respiratory conditions can be sensitive to a range of environmental irritants, which could include e-cigarette vapour. E-cigarette use is not recommended for young people. In the UK protection is in place via prohibitions on the sale of e-cigarettes to under 18s and purchase by adults on behalf of under 18s, and restrictions on advertising. It is therefore rational for an alternative educational provision to prioritise the risk of youth uptake and treat e-cigarettes in the same way as other age-restricted products and prohibit them as cigarettes are.
- Organisations working with children and young people in alternative educational settings have a major role to play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society.

- Children and young people need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking and non-vaping role models within our learning environment.

In order to seek a balance between the interests of all concerned and to ensure the health and safety of its staff and students, Clover Learning Community operates the following policy on the smoking of cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

1. No smoking or vaping in any form is permitted in the building of Clover Learning Community.
2. All smokers are requested **not** to smoke immediately outside of the provision.
3. Employees are permitted to smoke off-site during official rest breaks only.
4. To ensure the safety of our vulnerable students, students are not permitted to leave the site to smoke or vape.
5. Students caught smoking or vaping on the site of Clover Learning Community will have their parents contacted and punishment issued in accordance with Clover Learning Community's behaviour policy and procedure.

## **Support**

Clover Learning Community encourages all smokers to seek advice and support in stopping smoking and can offer practical help to those who wish to do so. Please speak to the Head of Centre if you, or a student you work with, would like any further information. In addition, through its PSHE programme of study Clover Learning Community teaches students the dangers of smoking and how help can be sought via the NHS. To reinforce this learning, Clover Learning Community displays educational posters about the dangers of smoking and where help to quit can be sought.

This statement of policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- Clover Learning Community's Behaviour Policy